



August 14, 2012

Chairman Julius Genachowski  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

RE: Docket No. 96-128, Petitioner Martha Wright *et al.*, Alternative Rulemaking Proposal

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

As leaders of the national [Prison Phone Justice Campaign](#) --a national campaign challenging prison phone kickbacks and the U.S. Prison Telephone Industry-- the Center for Media Justice, Working Narratives and Prison Legal News submit the attached stories from individuals that believe the unreasonably high prison phone rates unjustly punish the families of the incarcerated.

Through our campaign, we've collected stories from hundreds of individuals who urge the FCC to act quickly to address this problem by capping the charges that can be imposed for interstate prison phone calls. These stories add to an already compelling public record that clearly shows the costs of telephone calls to incarcerated people are well beyond what most people in our country pay for telephone service. Sadly, prisoners do not bear these costs; rather it is the family members and loved ones outside of prison who pay these extremely high rates.

These predatory rates deter regular telephone contact with stable family members and others in the community. The exorbitant rates paid by prisoners' families increase recidivism, and place an undue and unfair burden upon the families. As the only agency with jurisdiction over long distance rates, the Federal Communications Commission is the correct venue to resolve this problem. A firm stance by the Commission will provide a strong message to improve the situation at the federal and state levels.

Collectively, we urge you to approve the Wright Petition, and take up the long-overdue task of protecting a vulnerable population from a predatory practice.

Sincerely,

amalia deloney  
Associate Director,  
Center for Media Justice